BPL people qualified for national old age pension

5214. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of below poverty line people who qualify for national old age pension;

(b) what is the gap between those who are receiving pension under the scheme and those who are not receiving it although they qualify; and

(c) what steps are being taken to cover all of them under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Natinal Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), which formed part of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and was administered as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme till the financial year, 2001-02, has been transferred to the State Plan with effect from the financial year, 2002-03. As per the guidelines of the National Old Age Pension Scheme, destitute persons aged 65 years or above having little or no regular means of subsistance from their own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources are eligible for pension under the Scheme. During the year 2001-02 5081902 beneficiaries were reportedly covered under the Scheme.

Scheme of water storage to deal with potable water crisis

†5215. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that serious crisis of potable water may arise in the country after few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are considering formulation of any scheme for storage of water in order to deal with the problem of potable water crisis.

(d) if so, the details of such scheme; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent for the implementation of said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (e) Drinking Water Supply being a State subject, the schemes for providing drinking water supply in rural areas are implemented by the State Governments with their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The State Governments have the powers to plan, sanction and implement individual rural drinking water supply schemes.

Although only five per cent of total ground water extracted is used for domestic water supply, more than 85% of Rural Water Supply needs are met from ground water. Development of ground water based irrigation has caused ground water depletion adversely affecting the life of drinking water supply sources especially in summer months.

Various measures are taken by different Departments for preservation of ground water. The State Governments can use 5% of ARWSP funds provided to them for issues relating to sustainability, including artificial recharge, rain water harvesting and other traditional water conservation measures in rural areas.

The various steps taken by Government of India to prevent the decline of ground water levels are as under:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a 'Model Bill' to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of a Manual on Artificial Recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.

(v) Preparation of a perspective Plan and Possibility of recharging Ground water by utilising surplus monsoon run-off in the country.

(vi) Ground Water Recharge measures undertaken by State Governments and NGOs.

(vii) Promoting of Roof Top Harvesting through Watershed Management programme and Artificial Recharge programme.

(viii) Regulation of Rainwater Harvesting.

Involvement of NGO's in Food for Work scheme

5216. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NGOs are being involved in the Food for Work scheme in rural areas; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Using services of NGO's for social mobilization in SGSY scheme

5217. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision in the SGSY scheme for using services of good NGOs for social mobilization;